

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 13.

Please take note that there is no claim 16.

Please add new claims 19 – 21.

Please amend the claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, and 18 as follows:

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1. (Currently amended) A network address translating gateway connecting a LAN to an external network, said LAN using local IP addresses, said gateway having a local IP address that can be ~~seen~~ referenced by devices on said LAN and having an external IP address that can be ~~seen~~ referenced by devices on said external network, said gateway comprising:

a plurality of internal tables associating combinations of local IP addresses of local devices on said LAN, external IP addresses of external devices on said external network, SPI - In values, SPI - Out values, source port addresses, destination port addresses, ~~reserved~~ process-specific port addresses, and maintaining a list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses,

means for performing normal address translation upon datagrams passing from said LAN to said external network and datagrams passing from said external network to said LAN,

means for delivering a datagram from a local device on said LAN to an external device on said external network by receiving a datagram from a local device on said LAN intended for delivery to an external device on said external network, and determining whether the destination port address for said datagram is included in said list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses and, if said destination port address is not included in said list of ~~reserved~~ selected

process-specific port addresses, performing normal address translation upon said datagram and passing said datagram to said external network for routing and delivery to said external device,

and if said destination port address is included in said list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses, determining whether said destination port address is bound to said a local IP address ~~of said local device~~, and if said destination port address is bound to said a local IP address, performing normal address translation upon said datagram and passing said datagram to said external network ~~for routing and delivery to said external device~~,

B² and if said destination port address is not bound to said a local IP address ~~of said local device~~, modifying said source IP address of said datagram to be said external IP address of said gateway, binding said destination port address to said the local IP address of said local device and creating an association between said destination port address and the external IP address of said external device, and passing said datagram to said external network for routing and delivery to said external device.

2. (Previously presented) The network address translating gateway of claim 1, wherein the means for delivering a datagram from a local device on said LAN to an external device further comprises a means for determining whether said datagram is encrypted and, if said datagram is encrypted, for determining whether the SPI of said datagram is recorded in the SPI - Out field in said internal table and, if said SPI is recorded in said SPI - Out field, modifying the source IP address of said datagram to be said external IP address of said gateway and passing said datagram to said external network for routing and delivery to said external device.

3. (Previously presented) The network address translating gateway of claim 2, further comprising if said SPI is not recorded in said SPI - Out field of said internal table, means for setting the SPI - In field corresponding to the local IP address of said local device equal to zero and setting said SPI - Out field equal to said SPI, modifying said source IP address of said datagram to be said external IP address of said gateway and passing said datagram to said external network for routing and delivery to said external device.

B² 4. (Currently amended) The network address translating gateway of claim 1, wherein the network address translating gateway further comprises means for delivering a datagram from said external device to said local device by receiving a datagram from said external device on said external network intended for delivery to said local device on said LAN, means for determining whether said datagram is encrypted and, if said datagram is encrypted, determining whether the datagram's SPI is recorded in said SPI - In field of said internal table and, if said SPI is recorded in said SPI - In field, modifying the destination IP address of said datagram to be said local IP address of said local device and passing said datagram to said LAN for routing and delivery to said local device,

and if said SPI is not recorded in said SPI - In field of said internal table, determining whether said SPI - In field corresponding to said IP address of said external device is equal to zero and, if said SPI - In field is not equal to zero, discarding said datagram, and if said SPI - In field is equal to zero, setting said SPI - In field equal to said SPI, modifying the destination IP address of said datagram to be said local IP address of said local device and passing said datagram to said LAN for delivery to said local device,

and if said datagram is not encrypted, determining whether the destination port address for said datagram is included in said list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses and, if said destination port address is not included in said list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses, performing normal address translation upon said datagram and passing said datagram to said LAN for delivery to said local device,

B² and if said destination port address is included in said list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses, determining whether said destination port address is bound to ~~the~~ a local IP address ~~of said local device~~, and if said destination port address is not bound to ~~said~~ a local IP address, discarding said datagram, and if said destination port address is bound to ~~said~~ a local IP address, determining whether said destination port address is associated with the external IP address of said external device, and if said destination port address is associated with the external IP address of said external device, modifying said destination IP address of said datagram to be ~~said~~ the bound local IP address of said local device, unbinding said destination port address from said local IP address, and passing said datagram to said LAN for delivery to said local device.

5. (Previously presented) The network address translating gateway of claim 1, further comprising a timer, wherein, upon receiving a signal that a selected process-specific port address has become bound to an IP address, said timer will commence timing for a predetermined length of time and, upon the expiration of said predetermined length of time, will send a signal causing said selected process-specific port address to become unbound from said IP address, and, upon receiving a signal indicating that said selected process-specific port address has become unbound from said IP address prior to the expiration of said predetermined length of time, said timer will stop timing and will reset.

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6. (Previously presented) The network address translating gateway of claim 1 in which said external network is the internet.

7. (Previously presented) The network address translating gateway of claim 6 in which said LAN is a virtual private network.

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8. (Currently amended) A method of processing IP datagrams from a local device on a LAN using local IP addresses through a network address translating gateway to an external device on an external network comprising the steps of:

maintaining a plurality of tables associating local IP addresses of local devices on said LAN, external IP addresses of external devices on said external network, port addresses of said local devices, port addresses of said external devices, SPI - In values, SPI - Out values, and ~~reserved~~ process-specific port addresses, and a list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses,

receiving a datagram from said LAN

determining whether the destination port address for said datagram is included in said ~~table~~ list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses and, if said destination port address is not included in said ~~table~~ list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses, performing normal address translation upon said datagram and passing said datagram to said external network for routing and delivery to said external device,

and if said destination port address is included in said ~~table~~ list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses, determining whether said destination port address is bound to an

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IP address, and if said destination port is bound to an IP address, performing normal address translation upon said datagram and passing said datagram to said external network ~~for routing and delivery to said external device,~~

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and if said destination port address is not bound to an IP address, modifying said source IP address to be said external IP address for said ~~external device~~ gateway, binding said destination port address to the local IP address of said local device and creating an association between said destination port address and said external IP address of said external device, and passing said datagram to said external network for routing and delivery to said external device.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether said datagram is encrypted and, if said datagram is encrypted, determining whether the SPI in said datagram is recorded in the SPI - Out field of one of said plurality of internal tables and, if said SPI is recorded in said SPI - Out field of said internal table, modifying the source IP address to be the external IP address of said gateway and passing said datagram to said external network for routing and delivery to said external device, and if said SPI is not recorded in said SPI - Out field of said internal table, setting said SPI - Out field corresponding to the IP address of said external device equal to said SPI and setting the SPI - In field of said internal table to zero, modifying said source IP address to be said external IP address of said gateway, and passing said datagram to said external network for routing and delivery to said external device.

10. (Currently amended) A method of processing IP datagrams from an external device on an external network through a network address translating gateway to a local device on a LAN using local IP addresses, comprising the steps of

B² maintaining a plurality of tables associating local IP addresses of local devices on said LAN, external IP addresses of external devices on said external network, port addresses of said local devices, port addresses of said external devices, SPI - In values, SPI - Out values, and ~~reserved~~ process-specific port addresses, and a list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses,

receiving a datagram from said external network

determining whether said datagram is encrypted and if said datagram is not encrypted, determining whether the destination port address for said datagram is included in said list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses, and if said destination port address is not included in said list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses, performing normal address translation and passing said datagram to said LAN for routing and delivery to said local device,

and if said destination port address is included in said list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses, determining whether said destination port address is bound to ~~said~~ a local IP address, and if said destination port is not bound to ~~said~~ a local IP address, discarding said datagram,

and if said destination port address is bound to ~~said~~ a local IP address, determining whether said destination port address is associated with the external IP address of said external device, and if said destination port address is associated with said external IP address of said external device, modifying said destination IP address to be ~~said~~ the bound local IP address of

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said local device, unbinding said destination port address from said local IP address, and passing said datagram to said LAN for routing and delivery to said local device.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises the steps, if said datagram is encrypted, of:

B² determining whether the SPI in said datagram is recorded in the SPI - In field of one of said plurality of internal tables and, if said SPI is recorded in said SPI - In field of said internal table, modifying the destination IP address to be the ~~internal~~ local IP address of said local device and passing said datagram to said LAN for routing and delivery to said local device,

and if said SPI is not recorded in said SPI - In field of said internal table, determining whether said SPI - In field corresponding to the IP address of said external device is zero, and if said SPI - In field is not zero, discarding said datagram,

and if said SPI - In field is equal to zero, modifying said SPI - In field to be said SPI, modifying said destination IP address to be said local IP address of said local device, and passing said datagram to said LAN for routing and delivery to said local device.

12. (Currently amended) The method of processing IP datagrams as claimed in ~~claim 11~~ claim 8, further comprising the steps of starting a timer whenever ~~said destination~~ a selected process-specific port address becomes bound to said local IP address of said local device,

resettling said timer whenever said destination port address has become released,

and sending a signal whenever said timer is active and a predetermined length of time has expired from the time said timer was started.

13. (Cancel) The method of processing IP datagrams as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the steps of starting a timer whenever said destination port address becomes bound to said local IP address of said local device,

resetting said timer whenever said destination port address has become released,

and sending a signal whenever said timer is active and a predetermined length of time has expired from the time said timer was started.

14. (Previously presented) The method of processing IP datagrams as claimed in claim 11, in which said external network is the internet.

15. (Currently amended) The method of processing IP datagrams as claimed in ~~claim 11~~
~~d of processing IP datagrams as claimed in claim 11~~ in which said LAN is a virtual private network.

16. - Missing

17. (Previously presented) The method of processing IP datagrams as claimed in claim 12 in which said LAN is a virtual private network.

18. (Currently amended) A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program ~~having~~ comprising a plurality of code sections executable by a machine ~~and~~ for connecting a LAN to an external network via a network address translating gateway, ~~wherein~~ said gateway having a local IP address that can be ~~seen~~ referenced by devices on said LAN and

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having an external IP address that can be ~~seen~~ referenced by devices on said external network, and further ~~including~~ comprising a plurality of internal tables associating combinations of local IP addresses of local devices on said LAN, external IP addresses of external devices on said external network, source port addresses, destination port addresses, ~~reserved~~ process-specific port addresses, and a list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses including at least port 500, for ~~assisting~~ causing the machine to perform the steps of:

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~~attempting to deliver~~ processing a datagram from a local device on said LAN ~~to an external device on said external network~~ by receiving a datagram from a local device on said LAN intended for delivery to an external device on said external network;

determining whether the destination port address for said datagram is included in said list of ~~reserved~~ selected process-specific port addresses and determining whether said destination port address is bound to ~~said a local IP address of said local device on said LAN~~;

and if said destination port address is not included in said list of selected process-specific port addresses, performing normal address translation upon said datagram and passing said datagram to said external network for routing and delivery to said external device ~~if said destination port address is not included in said list of reserved port addresses~~;

and if said destination port address is included in said list of selected process-specific port addresses, and said destination port address is bound to a local IP address, performing normal address translation upon said datagram and passing said datagram to said external network ~~for routing and delivery to said external device, if said destination port address is included in said list of reserved port addresses and if said destination port address is bound to said local IP address~~;

and if said destination port address is not bound to a local IP address on said LAN,
modifying said source IP address of said datagram to be said external IP address of said gateway,
binding said destination port address to ~~said~~ the local IP address of said local device and creating
an association between said destination port address and the external IP address of said external
device, and passing said datagram to said external network for routing and delivery to said
external device ~~if said destination port address is not bound to said local IP address of said local~~
device.

19. (New) The network address translating gateway of claim 1 wherein said list of selected
process-specific port addresses comprises port 500.

20. (New) The method of claim 8, in which said list of selected process-specific port
addresses comprises port 500.

21. (New) The method of claim 10, in which said list of selected process-specific port
addresses comprises port 500.